

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An audio processing apparatus, comprising:

A ~~second~~ first obtaining section for firstly obtaining a ~~second~~ first audio signal from a ~~second~~ first source;

a ~~third~~ second obtaining section for secondly obtaining a ~~third~~ second audio signal from a ~~third~~ second source, the ~~third~~ second audio signal having a volume level different from that of the ~~second~~ first audio signal; and

an output control section for selectively switching between the ~~second~~ first audio signal obtained at the ~~second~~ first obtaining section and the ~~third~~ second audio signal obtained at the ~~third~~ second obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker; and

a mute section for muting the second audio signal,

wherein when switching a sound to be output from a sound based on the ~~third~~ first audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the ~~third~~ first audio signal, passes through a mute state and the mute section mutes the second audio signal, and subsequently starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal.

17. (Currently Amended) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~third~~ second audio source is a reproduction only medium.

18. (Currently Amended) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the third second audio signal has a smaller volume level than the second first audio signal.

19. (Currently Amended) The audio processing apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a first third obtaining section for obtaining a first third audio signal from a first third source, the first third audio signal having the same volume level as the second first audio signal,

wherein the output control section selectively switches among the second first audio signal obtained at the second first obtaining section, the third second audio signal obtained at the third second obtaining section, and the first third audio signal obtained at the first third obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker; and

when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from the sound based on the first third audio signal to the sound based on the second first audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the first third audio signal and subsequently starts an output of the sound based on the second first audio signal.

20. (Currently Amended) An audio processing apparatus, comprising:

a second first obtaining section for firstly obtaining a second audio signal from a second first source;

a third second obtaining section for secondly obtaining a third audio signal from a third second source, the audio signal having a volume level different from that of the second first audio signal;

a mute section for muting the second audio signal;

an output control section for selectively switching between the second first audio signal obtained at the second first obtaining section and the third second audio signal obtained at the third second obtaining section to be output as a sound from a speaker; and

an operation detecting section for detecting an operation of a user,

wherein

when switching a sound to be output from the speaker from a sound based on the third first audio signal to a sound based on the second audio signal, the output control section completes an output of the sound based on the third first audio signal when an operation of the user is detected by the operation detecting section while the sound based on the third first audio signal is being output, ~~transfers to a mute state the mute section mutes the second audio signal~~, and

~~the output section transfers from the mute state the mute section un-mutes the second audio signal and the output section starts an output of the sound based on the second audio signal when the operation of the user is detected by the operation detecting section subsequent to the mute state.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An audio processing method of an audio processing apparatus, comprising:

a second first step of the audio processing apparatus obtaining a third first audio signal from a third first source to output a sound based on the obtained third first audio signal to a speaker;

a second step of obtaining a second audio signal from a second source, the second audio signal having a volume level different from that of the first audio signal;

a third step of the audio processing apparatus completing the output of the sound based on the third first signal and ~~transferring the output from the speaker to a muting state muting the second audio signal~~ when receiving an operation of a user after the sound based on the third first audio signal is output; and

a first step of obtaining a second audio signal from a second source, the second

audio signal having a volume level different from that of the third audio signal, a sound based on the second audio signal being output from the speaker when receiving an operation from the user subsequent to the muting state; and

a fourth step of un-muting the second audio signal and starting an output of the sound based on the second audio signal when receiving the operation of the user is detected subsequent to the second audio signal being muted.

22. (Currently Amended) The audio processing method according to claim 21, wherein the third first source is a reproduction only medium.

23. (Currently Amended) The audio processing method according to claim 21, wherein the third first audio signal has a smaller volume level than the second audio signal.

24. (Cancelled)